

Language Matters!

People with Disabilities are People First!

People First language promotes understanding, respect, dignity and a positive outlook for people with disabilities.

People First language eliminates generalizations, assumptions and stereotypes by focusing on the person rather than the disability

People First language puts the person first in thought and word.

People First language emphasizes ability, not limitations.

People First language is an objective way of acknowledging, communicating and reporting on disabilities.

People First language is not a fad or politically correct jargon.

People with disabilities want to be thought of as regular and ordinary people just like everyone else.

Recognizing a disability is not a challenge to overcome it is only a part of who the person is and their unique characteristics.

Be sensitive and respectful when you choose the words you use to address a person with a disability.

Do not use "special" as a euphemism.

Do not use labels. They do not reflect the individuality, equality, dignity or talent of a person with a disability.

Remember – Language matters!